GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2820
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2017
Common Agency for Collection of Price Statistics
Shanavas Shri M. I.

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is intending to institute a common agency for the collection of price statistics as well as Consumer Price Indices (CPI) to substitute for CPI-Agricultural and Rural Labourers and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether there is any report submitted by any committee duly appointed by the Government which aimed to address inadequacies in addressing population-specific requirements and data collection; and
(c) if so, the details and the salient recommendations thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION [SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA]
(a) : No Madam.
(b) & (c): In July 2010, National Statistical Commission (NSC) constituted 'Committee on Price Statistics' under the Chairmanship of Dr. Sudipto Mundle. The term of reference of the Committee interalia included Integration of data collection machinery. The Committee submitted report on 13th April 2011. The Committee noted that integration of data collection mechanism for all the price indices is desirable for rationalization and consistency of data flow; coordinated and timely revision of the price indices and optimum utilization of manpower for price data collection. Accordingly, the Committee made following recommendations:
(i) Price data collection for CPI-Rural and CPI-Agricultural Labourers /Rural Labourers should be integrated. Suitable technical proposals for adjustment of the data set and sample size should be prepared by the Technical Advisory Committee on Statistics of Prices and Cost of Living (TAC on SPCL).
(ii) The Committee feels that integration of price collection mechanism for all price indices should be accomplished by entrusting the task to a single agency, namely, Field Operation Division (FOD) of National sample Survey Office (NSSO).
(iii) Technical bottlenecks in integrating the datasets for CPI-Urban and CPI-Industrial Workers should be resolved by Prices Unit of National Accounts Division, Central Statistics Office (CSO) in consultation with Labour Bureau. Changes in price collection scheme including, inter alia, the number of markets, centres, items, brands/specifications etc. may be submitted to the TAC on SPCL for approval.

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